

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 9A

WASHINGTON TIMES
8 JULY 1982

The increase of Soviet espionage in America

ALLAN BROWNFELD

The Soviet Union, according to Attorney General William French Smith, is sending a growing number of spies to the United States under a number of guises: as diplomats, trading company representatives, students, scientists, reporters, immigrants or refugees. The number of official representatives of governments with hostile intelligence activities in the United States has increased 400% in the last decade, Smith reports.

The Department of Justice points to the following:

- About one-third of Soviet bloc diplomats at embassies, consulates, the United Nations and other international organizations in the United States "are believed to be full-time intelligence officers."

- Soviet spies masquerade as trading company representatives in the "dozens" of corporations in the United States largely or exclusively owned by Soviet bloc countries.

- The ranks of "students, scientists and reporters living in the United States as a result of increased Soviet-American exchange programs are "packed with full-time or part-time intelligence operatives."

- Soviet immigration, virtually nonexistent between 1973 and now totaling 150,000 people, also has provided cover for agents. It is believed that a "small but significant fraction" of the more than 100,000 Cuban refugees in the United States are "agents of Soviet and Cuban intelligence."

"At one time, the FBI could match suspected hostile intelligence agents in the United States on a one-to-one basis," Smith said. "Now the number of hostile agents has grown so much that our FBI counter intelligence agents are greatly outnumbered."

The FBI reports that New York City has become the spy capital of the world. As a result, the FBI has expanded its counter intelligence staff in New York, which is now believed to number several hundred. FBI director William Webster says 35 percent of so-called diplomats from unfriendly nations are actually professional spies. He reports there has been "a rather extensive increase" recently in the number of "foreign intelligence-trained individ-

uals here, mostly under diplomatic coverage."

Communist spies go after many types of information — military, diplomatic and scientific. But, according to Webster, "The major thrust today in Soviet and Soviet-bloc countries is technology transfer."

Some successes have been reported in catching spies dealing in military secrets. In Los Angeles in December 1981, a Polish national, Marian W. Zacharski, was sentenced to life in prison for buying secret defense documents from an American. The American, William Holden Bell — a former aircraft-company engineer who admitted getting \$95,000 for the information — was sentenced to eight years in prison. Several months earlier another American, Joseph George Helmich Jr., pleaded guilty to conspiring to sell military secrets to the Soviet Union.

Even with such successes, however, the outlook is not good, as Communist spies in the United States keep multiplying. "What worries me," says FBI agent Donald McGorty, "is that the other side totally and absolutely outnumbers us 10 to 1."

Yet another important target of Soviet intelligence is the U.S. Congress itself.

A top FBI official characterized the protection of classified information on Capitol Hill as "a security officer's nightmare" at Senate hearings on Communist Bloc Intelligence Gathering Activities on Capitol Hill. Under protection procedures described by the Senate Subcommittee on Security and Terrorism, James E. Nolan Jr., an assistant director of the FBI, said: "You would virtually have to assume the material had been compromised."

A defector from Cuba's intelligence service, Gerardo Peraza, testified that the U.S. Senate is penetrated by Soviet-bloc intelligence. Peraza, formerly a senior official of the Cuban DGI, was asked if there were any examples of a defense-related or security-related organization that he personally knew was penetrated by the DGI or the KGB. "Yes, definitely," he replied. "We can use the example of the U.S. Senate."

He said that "an extraordinary emphasis had been placed on several senators... with some success." Within a month of this testimony, which took place in March 1982, a member of the staff of Sen. Lowell P. Weicker, R-Conn., was identified as having held a series of meetings with a Soviet agent and of handing over to the Soviet agent classified material on ultra-secret nuclear weapons facilities in Colorado.

Rep. Don Ritter, R-Pa., testified on an unsuccessful attempt by the Soviets to establish contact with him. He also questioned the fact that the House and Senate press galleries admit representatives from Tass and Izvestia but do not admit Voice of America reporters.

In the face of all of this, it is incredible that the FBI is forbidden to operate on Capitol Hill. It should be clear by this time that the "guidelines" established for the FBI in the post-Watergate period, which, for example, forbid infiltration of radical and terrorist organizations, need dramatic revision.

The hostility that some have for the FBI and CIA is misdirected. In a society of law if these organizations overstep their legitimate boundaries and areas of jurisdiction, they should, of course, be penalized. Our country, however, is under growing attack from Soviet espionage activities and our own intelligence agencies are our first line of defense. They should be beefed up to meet this threat.

Allan Brownfeld, associate editor of *The Lincoln Review*, is a nationally syndicated columnist.